

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR TGEN US

SUBJ: US-USSR AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE COOPERATION: SUMMARY
OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING DECEMBER 3-5

1. MEETING HELD DECEMBER 3-5. DOCUMENTS WERE NOT COMPLETED IN TIME
FOR SIGNATURE BUT WILL BE SIGNED WHEN SOVIET DELEGATION RETURNS FROM
FIELD DECEMBER 12.

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY MATTERS WERE SETTLED TO SATISFACTION OF BOTH
SIDES. A COMPLETE LIST OF TEAMS TO BE EXCHANGED IN 1975 UNDER BOTH
WORKING GROUPS AND INCLUDING SPRING AND WINTER WHEAT CROP OBSERVATION
TEAMS, WAS APPROVED AND IMPROVED PROCEDURES FOR EXCHANGE OF TEAMS
WERE AGREED UPON BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

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2. THE ECONOMIC DATA QUESTION REGARDING FORWARD ESTIMATES COVERING

CONSUMPTION, PRODUCTION, DEMAND AND TRADE WAS NOT RESOLVED. U.S. SIDE PRESSED HARD FOR THIS THROUGHOUT SOME TIMES HEATED DAY AND A HALF DISCUSSIONS. SOVIET ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN RUDENKO MAINTAINED THAT PLAN FIGURES ALREADY BEING PROVIDED ARE AT LEAST EQUIVALENT AND PERHAPS BETTER THAN ANY POSSIBLE FORWARD ESTIMATES. WITH RESPECT TO TRADE ESTIMATES, USSR FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE KRUGLOV WAS ADAMANT IN REFUSAL TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON FOREIGN-TRADE INTENTIONS, MAINTAINING THAT SOVIET SIDE HAS DONE AND IS DOING ALL THAT IS REQUIRED BY THE AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT. HE ACCUSED U.S. SIDE OF MAKING UNFAIR DEMANDS AND STATED U.S. INTENTION TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE IN THE MINUTES INDICATING THAT COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT PROVIDE FORWARD TRADE DATA WOULD RECEIVE LOW PRIORITY IN US MARKET WAS SERIOUS THREAT. REST OF DELEGATION SEEMED TO DEFER TO HIM BOTH ON TRADE ESTIMATES AND ON ESTIMATES OF DEMAND, PRODUCTION, AND CONSUMPTION. TENTATIVELY AGREED BUT STILL UNSIGNED MINUTES RESTATE US DESIRE TO OBTAIN FORWARD DATA BUT DO NOT INCLUDE LANGUAGE ON LOW PRIORITY FOR COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT SUPPLY SUCH DATA. FOR THEIR PART, SOVIETS ALSO REQUESTED "ADDITIONAL" AGECON INFORMATION FROM US SIDE. "BOTH SIDES UNDERTOOK TO MAKE ALL NECESSARY EFFORTS TO STUDY "FEASIBILITY" OF EXPANDING INFORMATION REQUESTED BY EACH OTHER.

3. IN FINAL MOMENTS OF MEETING DEC. 3-5, IT WAS REALIZED THAT TRANSLATION INTO RUSSIAN OF TERM "FORWARD ESTIMATES" IN ART. II, PARA. 1, DOES NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT MEANING IN ENGLISH. WORD USED IN AGREEMENT IS "PERSPEKTIVINIE", WHEREAS "PREDVARITELNIE" IS WHAT WAS MEANT BY US SIDE. FORMER HAS NUANCE OF PROJECTIONS RATHER THAN FORWARD ESTIMATES. EACH SIDE MAINTAINS THAT VERSION IN ITS LANGUAGE IS AUTHORITATIVE. DIFFERENCE NOT RPT NOT RESOLVED AT THIS MEETING AND SOLUTION NOT RPT NOT IN SIGHT, ALTHOUGH IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE VERSION OF MINUTES RUNOV FINALLY AGREED TO USE "PREDVARITELNYE" WHERE ENGLISH VERSION USES "FORWARD". FACT THAT TEXT DIFFERENCE EXISTS IN AGREEMENT MAY PROVIDE SOVIETS LOOPHOLE TO AVOID REQUIREMENT FOR FORWARD DATA.

4. WITH EXCEPTION OF KRUGLOV, SOVIET DELEGATION MAINTAINED FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, ALL REMAINED FIRM ON THEIR POSITION THAT THEY ARE SUPPLYING EVERYTHING REQUIRED BY THE AGREEMENT WHICH THEY HAVE CAPABILITY TO SUPPLY. INGERSOLL
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